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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/941,677

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Hiroaki Sekiyama

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05/11/2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

SIMITOSKI, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2134

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/941,677

Applicant(s)

SEKIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Michael J. Simitoski

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The response of 3/24/2006 was received and considered.
2. Claims 3-8 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/24/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
4. Applicant's response (§1) argues that none of the applied references teach or suggest “a storage media, which stores for each user, a plurality of communication terminal IDs, a personal ID and personal information of the user, ... the personal ID being correlated with each of the plurality of communication terminal IDs”. However, Carlsson teaches HLR and VLRs/storage medias containing three separate types of registers: subscription, terminal and user information registers (col. 6, lines 18-20). Further, Fig. 5 discloses an Austin HLR which associates a user with a plurality of terminal IDs (Fig. 5, #230). The user register stores the default terminal ID for the user and the connected terminal ID (MIN) of each of the terminals which the user may employ (col. 6, lines 61-67). This is done so that the user can employ more than one terminal (col. 2, lines 5-8 & col. 6, lines 61-67).
5. Applicant's response (p. 3) argues that modifying the storage media of Laursen to store multiple terminals for a user would render Laursen unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. However, Laursen discloses using the device ID to identify a subscription. Modification as suggested in the office action, motivation for which is provided in Carlsson, would provide the user's subscription to be linked to multiple device ID's/terminal IDs. As explained in Carlsson,

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this would allow for instance a family where each terminal's use would be linked to a common family subscription (col. 2, lines 54-59). As further disclosed in Carlsson, the user register, terminal register and subscription register are all accessed when reconciling a call (col. 6, lines 49-52).

6. Applicant's response (p. 3, ¶3) argues against the rejection, citing that Laursen requires a direct association between the user account and the device through the subscription number and that Carlsson discloses a system that assigns a telephone number to a user rather than a terminal. First, the association between the user account and the device is maintained in Carlsson (Fig. 5, #230) as this is how the user is billed (col. 7, lines 1-17). The different is that Laursen uses a 1:1 correlation between a terminal and an account and Carlsson discloses as beneficial a many:1 relationship between terminals and an account. Further, Carlsson does assign a telephone number to a user rather than a terminal. However, Carlsson follows the same methodology of Laursen in that all the registers are access to provide the user with service (col. 6, lines 49-52). When in a call, the user's terminal is identified to a particular user, the telephone number/subscription is associated with that call and is billed accordingly. As Carlsson achieves the same purpose as Laursen with the modification that a user's account can be linked to multiple terminals rather than a single terminal, gaining the advantages as described above, the combination would not render Laursen unsatisfactory for its intended purposes, but rather more appealing.

7. Applicant's response (p. 4) argues that the proposed modification would change the principle operation of Laursen and Carlsson. Specifically, Applicant's response argues that because "the subscription number and personal information are directly correlated to a phone in

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Laursen, modifying the storage media of Laursen to store multiple terminals for a user as taught by Carlsson, is directly contrary to the specific teachings of Laursen and would change the principle operation of Laursen". However, as explained above, Laursen and Carlsson use the same data to render services to the user of a terminal (i.e. both use a terminal ID linked to a subscription). The terminal, having a device ID, is ultimately associated with an account, which is billed. Laursen uses a device ID to access a personal ID/subscription number (Fig. 2b) to access user information. Carlsson uses a device ID/terminal ID to access a user data (Fig. 5 & Fig. 6) to identify an account, which in turn is billed for the call (Fig. 6 & col. 8, lines 15-16). Associating in Laursen multiple accounts with a single terminal would neither render Laursen unsatisfactory for its intended purpose nor would it fundamentally change the operation. The terminal in Laursen is still looked up in the register/link server, but rather than having only one terminal per subscription number, the system can have multiple, as taught by Carlsson. The same security is provided because in Carlsson, a registration procedure precedes the connection (col. 7, ¶2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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9. Claims 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,065,120 to Laursen et al. (**Laursen**) in view of U.S. Patent 6,253,074 to Carlsson et al. (**Carlsson**).

Regarding claims 3-8, Laursen discloses a storage media, which stores for each user, terminal ID/device ID (Fig. 2b, #140 & col. 8, lines 9-12), a personal ID/subscriber ID (Fig. 2b, #142), and personal information of the user/username (Fig. 2b, #143), each terminal ID uniquely assigned to each communication terminal used by the user, the personal ID being uniquely assigned to the user, the personal ID being correlated with the terminal ID (Fig. 2b), the personal information being correlated with the personal ID (Fig. 2b), and authenticating means (Fig. 5a) for allowing the user access to the personal information correlated with the personal ID of the user (Fig. 2b) by retrieving the personal ID stored in the storage media based on a received communication terminal ID of the communication terminal of the user and identifying the user attempting to access an information source (col. 13, lines 28-63). Laursen lacks the media storing a plurality of terminal IDs for each user, wherein the personal ID is correlated with each of the plurality of communication terminal IDs. However, Carlsson teaches that it would be a distinct advantage for a cellular user to be able to pick up any available cellular terminal and received calls based upon his own subscription (col. 2, lines 5-8 & col. 6, lines 61-67) by allowing several terminals to access a single account (col. 2, lines 54-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Laursen to include a plurality of terminal IDs for each user, associated with a personal ID/subscriber ID. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such a

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modification to allow multiple devices to be associated with a single account, as taught by Carlsson (col. 2, lines 5-8, 54-59 & col. 6, lines 61-67).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. U.S. Patent 5,854,982 to Chambers et al. is cited for also teaching assigning multiple terminal identifiers to a single subscriber (Fig. 1, HLR₂ – MSISDN 120, 122 map to IMSI 1020, Fig. 3, HLR₂ – MSISDN 120, 122 map to IMSI 1020 & col. 6, lines 1-8).

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Simitoski whose telephone number is (571) 272-3841.

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The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 6:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays from 6:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis Jacques can be reached at (571) 272-6962.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300
(for formal communications intended for entry)

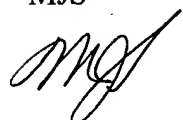
Or:

(571) 273-3841 (Examiner's fax, for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MJS



May 2, 2006



JACQUES H. LOUIS JACQUES
PRIMARY EXAMINER